

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors and avoid the noted objection to the drawings. In addition, the Abstract on page 24 has been cancelled and non-elected claims 1-16 and 20-24 cancelled to advance the prosecution of this case.

Claim 17 has also been amended to more accurately claim Applicants' invention and to place it in more traditional U.S. format. More specifically, the claim now recites that the major axis of the inclined elliptical holes in the guiding members fixed to the duct inclines upwardly in the longitudinal direction of the guiding members, so that when a cartridge element is installed between the sliding rails, and the rails are slid into the duct, the rails are lifted up and the cartridge element is brought up into attachment with the duct.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 17-19 for being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,701,196 to Delany in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,937,531 to Hagen et al., and U.S. Patent No. 5,757,109 to Parvin.

Delany is similar to the invention of this application because the filter slides into a duct.

However, the drawer of Delany, which corresponds to the cartridge element of claim 17, is horizontally slid down into a casing and is placed in a duct with the casing. It is not lifted up when it is slid into it.

In contrast, in claim 17 the cartridge element is supported by sliding rails that are coupled to guiding members of the duct by coupling devices. The coupling device is inserted through a connection hole in the rail and an elliptical hole in the guiding member. The major axis of each elliptical hole inclines upwardly in the longitudinal

direction of the guiding member. Thus, when the rails with a cartridge element between them are slid into the duct in the longitudinal direction, they are lifted up by the coupling devices sliding along the elliptical holes, and the cartridge element is brought up into attachment with the duct.

The horizontal and vertical dimensions of the elliptical holes are designed so that the required space for the above operation, i.e., the operation to get the cartridge to be supported by the rails and attached to the duct, can be small, but still enough for the operation.

Accordingly, the invention of this application ensures sufficient air-tightness of the element which increases the efficiency of collecting dust.

Hagen may show slides that could be used with the device of Delany, but it is not seen where Hagen teaches the claimed inclined elliptical holes in the guiding members that incline upwardly along the major axis thereof in the longitudinal direction of the guiding members.

The Examiner refers to "inclined elliptic holes (48)" and "connecting holes (32)" in Hagen, but these are ball races for bearings 80 of a slide bearing having inner and outer races, the bearings being held in place by ball retainer 26. These are not "holes" coupled together by a coupling device that extends through the holes nor do the races "incline upwardly" as claimed in the longitudinal direction of the guiding members.

Accordingly, it is not seen how Hagen combined with Delany discloses Applicants' invention as now set forth in claim 17. All Hagen suggests is the use of ball race horizontal slides in the device of Delany.

Nor does Parvin appear to disclose what is missing in Delany and Hagen for here also it only discloses a horizontally disposed ball race similar to Hagen. It does not disclose the claimed upwardly inclined elliptical hole in fixed and spaced guiding members that are coupled to sliding rails with a coupling device that slides in the holes in the guiding members.

As required by MPEP § 2143.03, "all words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." Moreover, as noted in MPEP § 2143.02, to support a conclusion that a claim would have been obvious, "all the claimed elements" must have been known in the prior art, and the Examiner has not shown where this claimed feature of Applicants' invention is shown in any of the cited prior art.

Accordingly, it is submitted the Examiner has not clearly and sufficiently articulated all of the reasons why the claimed invention would have been obvious as required by MPEP § 2142 and 2143.

Claims 18 and 19 depend from claim 17, so it is submitted they are patentable over the cited references for the same reason.

It is believed claims 17-19 are now in condition for allowance and such action is therefore requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

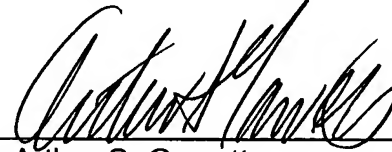
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 5, 2009

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur S. Garrett", is written over a horizontal line.

Arthur S. Garrett
Reg. No. 20,338
(202) 408-4091

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